

FORM B – BUILDING

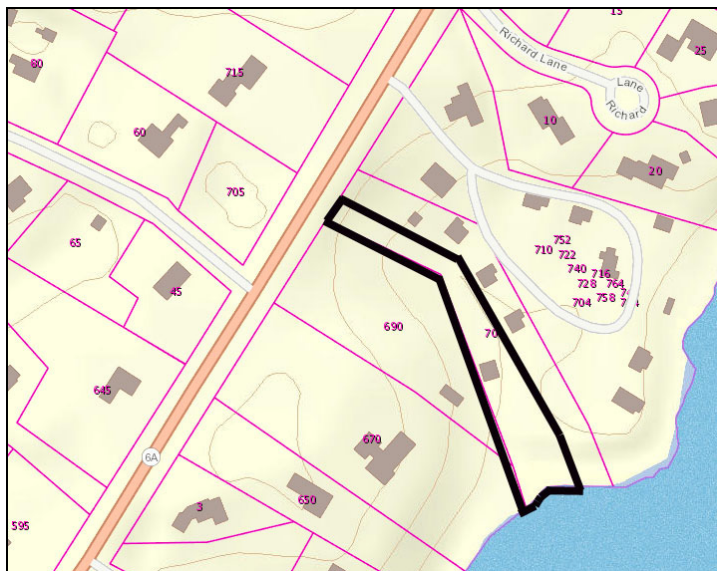
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



View from north (photo by Town of Eastham Assessor).

Locus Map (north at top)



Note incorrect property line (in pink) on Assessor's map: it should align with the northerly boundary of the subject property.

Recorded by: Larson Fisher Associates, Inc. with Kathryn Grover

Organization: Eastham Historical Commission

Date: May 2013

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

21-64

ORLEANS

EAS.627

Town/City: Town of Eastham

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): South Eastham

Address: 700 State Highway

Historic Name: Myriam C. & Howard W. Bliss Cottage

Uses: Present: single-family residence

Original: single-family residence

Date of Construction: ca. 1935

Source: tax records

Style/Form: undetermined

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: concrete

Wall/Trim: wood shingles/wood

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: none

Major Alterations (*with dates*): none

Condition: good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 0.8 acre

Setting: The subject property is located on the east side of State Highway with frontage on Town Cove, an inlet of the Atlantic Ocean. Single family land uses lie to the south and west, but the cottage colony Shore Garden, with 12 residential condominium units, occupies the adjoining lot to the north and east.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

EASTHAM

700 STATE HIGHWAY

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

EAS.627

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

This very simple and small one-story, gable-roofed cottage is sited well below the grade of State Highway and is not visible from the right-of-way. It is basically intact with exposed rafter ends, wood shingle cladding, wood corner boards and original two-over-two windows. The front facade (facing northwest) has three bays; the bay at the far right has paired windows. A small shed-roofed porch extends from the left (north) gable end. The foundation appears to be parged. There are no building permits on record for the subject property.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The house at 700 State Highway was built between 1931 and 1937 by Myriam Crocker Bliss of Norton. The property is comprised of four parcels, the earliest two of which Bliss bought in May 1930 from Frank C. Power of Attleboro,¹ who had acquired parcels in this section of Eastham in 1902, 1905, 1906, and 1912 from various parties. Tax records for 1931 show Bliss with .75 acre but no buildings; by 1937 these records show her with .9 acre and a cottage valued at \$600.

Myriam Crocker Bliss was born in Quincy in 1903, the daughter of Winthrop N. Crocker and his wife Florence E. Bates. Winthrop Crocker was a native of Brewster and a graduate of Bridgewater Normal School in 1893; he worked as principal for public schools in East Weymouth and Waltham and as superintendent for Dartmouth and Westport public schools in the 1890s and first decade of the 1900s. By 1925 Myriam Crocker had become a teacher herself and was living in her parents' household in Waltham. Her father was then the master of South Junior High School in that town. In either 1925 or 1926 she married Howard Witherell Bliss, who was born in Norton in 1900 and worked there as a jeweler. Myriam continued to teach probably until their son Winthrop was born in 1927. The Blisses are shown in Norton in the 1930 and 1940 censuses.

In 1938 and 1946 Bliss acquired additional Eastham land from Clarence J. Bell of Wellfleet and from Bell's heirs, and tax records for 1947 show her with 1.9 acres in a single parcel with a cottage valued at \$900. By 1954 she had built another cottage on the same parcel.² She continued to own the 700 State Highway property until 1974, when she deeded it to her son Winthrop and his wife Ida. They owned it until 1994, when Ida Bliss transferred title to her children William,³ Cynthia, Brian, and Anne M. Bliss Boudreau. Anne M. Boudreau and her husband Gary are current owners of the property.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Barnstable County Registry of Deeds. Deeds and Subdivision Maps.

Deyo, Simeon L., ed. *History of Barnstable County, Massachusetts, 1620-1890*. New York: H. W. Blake, 1890.

Dudley, Dean (1823-1906). *Historical Sketches of the Towns and Cities of Plymouth and Barnstable Counties, Mass.* Wakefield, MA: Dean Dudley, 1873.

Town of Eastham Tax Commitment Books. 1902-57.

Freeman, Frederick (1799-1883). *The History of Cape Cod: The Annals of Barnstable County and of its Several Towns, Including the District of Mashpee*. 2 vols. Boston: Printed for the author by Geo C. Rand & Avery, 1860-1862.

Kittredge, Henry C. *Cape Cod: Its People and Their History*. 1930. Reprint. Orleans, MA: Parnassus Imprints, 1968.

Lowe, Alice Albert. *Nauset on Cape Cod: A History of Eastham*. Falmouth, MA: Eastham Historical Society. 1968.

Massachusetts Department of Conservation, Cape Cod Commission, and Boston University. *Heritage Landscape Inventory Report: Eastham, Massachusetts*. Massachusetts Heritage Landscape Inventory Program, December 2010.

Massachusetts Historical Commission. "Reconnaissance Survey Report: Eastham." Typescript, Massachusetts Historical Commission, Boston, 1984.

McKenzie, Matthew. *Clearing the Coastline: The Nineteenth-Century Ecological and Cultural Transformation of Cape Cod*. Hanover, NH, and London: University Press of New England, 2010.

Pratt, Enoch. *A Comprehensive History, Ecclesiastical and Civil of Eastham, Wellfleet and Orleans, County of Barnstable, Mass., from 1644-1844*. Yarmouth, MA: W. S. Fisher and Company, 1844.

Thompson, Elroy Sherman. *History of Plymouth, Norfolk and Barnstable Counties, Massachusetts*. 3 vols. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1928.

Trayser, Donald G. *Eastham, Massachusetts, 1651-1951: Eastham's Three Centuries*. Lexington, MA: Hancock Press for Eastham Tercentenary Committee, 1951.

MAPS

¹ Frank C. Power to Myriam Crocker Bliss, 6 May 1930, Barnstable County Registry of Deeds (BCD) 473:200.

² It appears as though one of these cottages was on what is now 690 State Highway, which maps show as 1.1 acre; that area together with the 0.8 acre of the subject property equal the 1.9 acre Bliss is shown to have in tax records.

³ Clarence J. Bell, Wellfleet, to Myriam Crocker Bliss, Attleboro, 30 April 1938, Barnstable County Registry of Deeds (BCD) 541:406; Harriet R. Bell and Richmond R. Bell and Clarence B. Daniels, all Wellfleet, to Miriam C. Bliss, Norton, 15 April 1946, BCD 656:378; Myriam C. Bliss (aka Miriam C. Bliss and Myriam Crocker Bliss) to Winthrop C. and Ida V. Bliss, 5 September 1974, BCD 2094:333-35; Ida V. Bliss, Norton, to William E. Bliss, Cynthia F. Bliss, Brian H. Bliss, and Anne M. Boudreau, 17 May 1994, BCD 9196:287; William E. Bliss, Attleboro; Cynthia F. Bliss, Danbury; Brian H. Bliss, Seekonk; and Anne M. Boudreau, Needham, to Anne M. and Gary Boudreau, Norton, 20 July 2012, BCD 26550:16.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

EASTHAM

700 STATE HIGHWAY

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

EAS.627

Walling, Henry F. *Map of the Counties of Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket Massachusetts Based upon the Trigonometrical Survey of the State*. New York: D. R. Smith and Co., 1858.

Official Topographical Atlas of Massachusetts Compiled and Corrected by H. F. Walling and O. W. Gray. Boston: Stedman, Brown and Lyon, 1871.

Atlas of Barnstable County, Massachusetts. Boston: George H. Walker and Co., 1880.

Atlas of Massachusetts from Topographical Surveys Made in Co-operation by the United States Geological Survey and the Commissioners of the Commonwealth 1884-1888. Boston: Commissioners of the Commonwealth, 1890.

Atlas of Barnstable County, Massachusetts . . . from Official Plans and Actual Surveys. Boston: Walker Lithograph and Publishing Co., 1905, 1910.

PHOTOGRAPHS

(credit Larson Fisher Associates, 2012-2013 unless otherwise noted)



View from west-northwest.